

REMARKS

The Examiner allowed claims 8, 10, 19, 21 and 25. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowed subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, 11-18, 20, 22-24 and 26-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cesare *et al.* (Patent # 6,604,095) in view of applicant's own admitted prior art as recited in instant specification page 3, lines 7-20.

Allowed claims 8 and 19 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

All dependent claims which have been amended herein have been rewritten to depend from an allowed claim.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §103 rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, 11-18, 20, 22-24 and 26-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cesarc *et al.* (Patent # 6,604,095) in view of applicant's own admitted prior art as recited in instant specification page 3, lines 7-20.

Since claims 1-4, 12, 14-15, 23, and 31 have been canceled, the rejection of claims 1-4, 12, 14-15, 23, and 31 is moot.

Since claims 11 and 22 were canceled in a prior office action response, the rejection of claims 11 and 22 is moot.

Since claims 5-7 and 26-30 depend from allowed claim 8, Applicants respectfully contend that claims 5-7 and 26-30 are allowable.

Since claim 9 depends from allowed claim 10, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 9 is allowable.

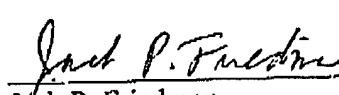
Since claims 16-18 and 33-34 depend from allowed claim 19, Applicants respectfully contend that claims 16-18 and 33-34 are allowable.

Since claims 13, 20, and 32 depend from allowed claim 21, Applicants respectfully contend that claims 13, 20, and 32 are allowable.

Since claim 24 depends from allowed claim 25, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 24 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0457.

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